



Comment Period

July 13 – ~~Aug. 14~~ Oct. 14,
2020

Send comments by

~~Aug. 14~~ Oct. 14, 2020, to
BPlantEECA@rl.gov

Administrative Record

<https://go.usa.gov/xwepE>



Questions?

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B Plant was among five chemical processing facilities built at Hanford.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a ~~30-day~~ 90-day public comment period on an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that considers three alternatives for a removal action at the B Plant Complex located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site.

Background

The 580-square-mile Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program.

Today, waste management and environmental cleanup, including protection of the Columbia River, are Hanford's primary missions.

About B Plant

From 1945 through 1952, the B Plant Complex was used for the chemical separation of plutonium from irradiated fuel rods. In the 1960s, B Plant was modified and restarted, with the new mission to separate cesium and strontium from tank waste. These missions resulted in contamination of buildings and structures within the complex.

Unoccupied since the mid-1990s, the B Plant buildings and structures within the scope of this EE/CA are degrading. Spread of contamination and degradation have been observed throughout the complex, as evidenced by water leaks, stains, exposed insulation, and deterioration.



Public Comment Period: Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis on Proposed B Plant Complex Removal Action

Removal Action

Until a final remedial decision for the B Plant Complex is made and implemented, a non-time-critical removal action is essential to minimize the hazards. Information on the difference between removal and remedial actions is available at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-remedy-and-non-time-critical-removal-action-ntcra-decision-documentation>.

An EE/CA is required for any non-time-critical removal action. It is a comprehensive study prepared consistent with federal environmental regulations to evaluate cleanup options that address environmental conditions.

The study considers the cost, ability and effectiveness to implement the different cleanup alternatives.

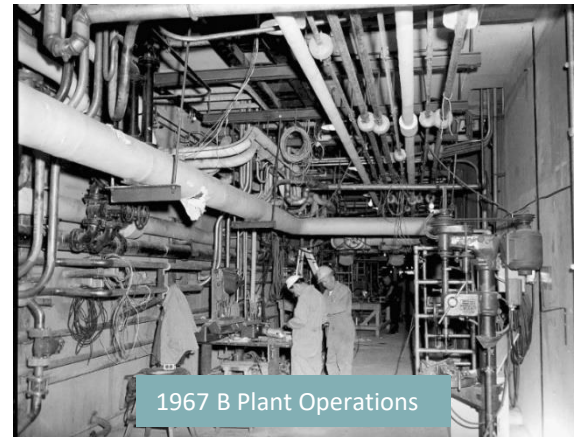
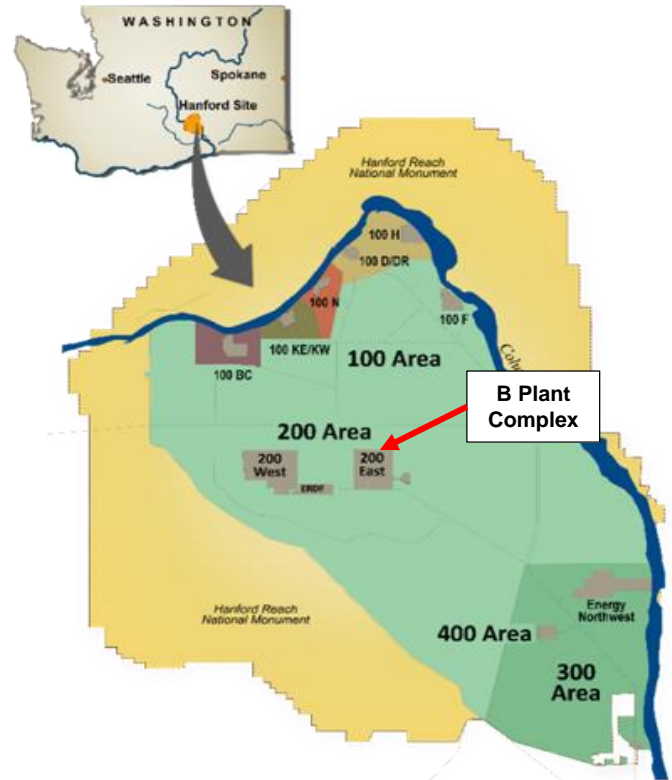
What does this EE/CA propose?

The EE/CA analyzes alternatives for a non-time-critical removal action for the B Plant Complex, which includes the 221B Canyon Building and the 291B Canyon Ventilation System.

Emission units associated with B Plant covered in this EE/CA will be transitioned from the Hanford [Air Operating Permit](#) to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ([CERCLA](#)) authority. 221B Canyon Building air permits will be discontinued upon the Notice of Transition effective date which will coincide with the onset of CERCLA field activities covered under this removal action.

The EE/CA evaluates three different removal action alternatives (see table, page 3). Each successive alternative includes all of the actions involved in the previous alternative, with the addition of new actions.

Based on the comparative analysis of the removal action alternatives for the B Plant Complex, Alternative 3 is preferred.



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Proposed Alternatives for the B Plant Complex Removal Action

Alternative	Removal Action Description	Present-Worth Cost
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Action	\$0
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Surveillance and maintenance of B Plant Complex structuresHazard abatement of the 221B BuildingDemolition and grouting of 291B Ventilation System	\$118.4 million
3	Alternative 2 actions plus demo prep of the 221B Building	\$123.1 million

Why is Alternative 3 preferred?

The analysis finds that Alternative 3 provides the best combination of actions to protect workers, the public and the environment while meeting the remedial action objectives. Alternative 3 is both technically and administratively feasible and supports future remedial decisions and characterization activities at the B Plant Complex.

An Administrative Record documenting the complete EE/CA, including additional information on the removal action alternatives, can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xwepE>.

Public Involvement

A ~~30-day~~ 90-day public comment period will run from July 13 through ~~Aug. 14~~ Oct. 14, 2020.

Copies of the EE/CA and supporting documentation will be available online during the public comment period on the Hanford public involvement website at <https://go.usa.gov/xVmew>, in the Administrative Record at <https://go.usa.gov/xwepE>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTS>.

Please submit comments by ~~Aug. 14~~ Oct. 14 to BPlantEECA@rl.gov (preferred) or in writing to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Attn: Dana Gribble
P.O. Box 450, H6-60
Richland, WA 99352

After considering comments received from the public, DOE will confer with the Washington State Department of Ecology to select an alternative. The selected alternative will be documented in a [CERCLA](#) Action Memorandum.

Questions? Please contact Dana Gribble at Dana_C_Gribble@rl.gov or (509) 961-5609.

Please contact Dana Gribble, Dana_C_Gribble@rl.gov, (509) 961-5609 to request disability accommodation. DOE makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests.



Public Involvement Opportunity

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